



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana



Louisiana ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

February 22-23, 2013 • Baton Rouge Marriott

***\$35 Early Bird
Registration
Ends Next Week***

Don't let distance stop you from attending! **Lodging assistance** is offered to those with significant drive times while funding is available so apply now! Application is attached in email.

Our **program line up** will be announced next week! Look for it on our website: www.wlf.la.gov/eec

Short Course Featured this Week ::

Conservation Education Featuring WET, WILD, & Learning Tree WORKSHOP

If you've not yet been trained in **Project WET, WILD, or Learning Tree**, now is the time! These are three of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs among educators of students in pre-K through high school. It is based on the premise that young people and educators have a vital interest in learning about our natural world. Emphasizing nature because of its intrinsic value, these programs address the need for a personal understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

And who better to lead you in this workshop than State Forester, Wade Dubea!

As a forester and classroom teacher, Wade served as director of the forestry education program within the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF) for several years. He is now the Assistant Commissioner of Forestry at LDAF and Louisiana's State Forester but loves to mix it up with educators at every opportunity. Engaging, dynamic, funny, knowledgeable... you are sure to LOVE attending Wade's workshop!

Have you ever thought about why certain plants and animals are found in certain places? Or just how much water is available for drinking? Or why the inside of a pine tree looks different from that of an oak tree? And just how does all of this relate to us? These are just a few of the topics that we will explore in this interactive workshop. You will also experience many ways to share information with students of all ages. Each participant will receive a set of all three basic program activity guides plus many informative handouts and teaching resources.

Join us for a fun-filled and informative workshop. You will certainly have a great time and learn a few things in the process!

For more information on the WET, WILD and Learning Tree programs, visit the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry website.

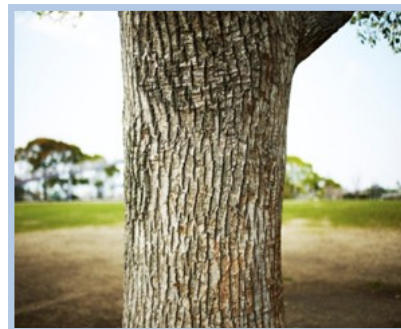
Facilitators: **Wade Dubea, State Forester**
Whitney Wallace, I&E Program Director

Grade Level: **General**

Location: **Hilltop Arboretum**

Time: **8:00 AM–3:30 PM**

Fee: **\$10; lunch provided**



WORKSHOPS

Audubon Aquarium NOAA Teacher Workshop

Audubon Aquarium is excited to offer this fantastic NOAA workshop on **March 9** at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans. Participants receive a copy of the *How Do We Explore?* curriculum as well as other resources and a \$50 stipend for full-day participation. Space is limited, and advanced registration is required. In order to participate, please complete the attached registration form and return it along with the registration deposit. Questions? Please contact Tricia LeBlanc at tleblanc@auduboninstitute.org.

Mathematical Sciences Institute 2013

The Metairie Park Country Day School will host a week-long institute for mathematics (and science) teachers at Tulane University. The institute focuses on teaching mathematics and its applications in science. The leaders of the institute content are nationally and internationally respected teachers. Institute Dates: July 15-19, 2013. Information can be found at <http://msi-no.org> or by contacting Andy Talmadge at andy_talmadge@mpcds.com email or 504.840.3972.

WEBINARS

Mark Your Calendar Now: The Green Strides Webinar Series Continues in 2013

Through the [Green Strides Webinar Series](#) hundreds of state, local and school officials and their communities are tuning in to learn how to reduce their schools' environmental impact and costs; improve health and wellness; and teach effective environmental literacy, including STEM, green careers, and civic engagement. The Series provides administrators, educators, parents and interested third parties the resources to move toward the exemplary levels of U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools>>>.

Jan. 23, 2013, 2-3 p.m. [Farm to School Program \(USDA\)](#)

Jan. 30, 2013, 4-5 p.m. [Eyes on the Earth- Global Climate Change \(NASA\)](#)

OneNOAA Science Seminars

All seminars are open to the public and offer limited remote access on a first come first served basis, unless otherwise indicated. For complete seminar details visit [OneNOAA Science Seminars](#) (all seminar subject to change). For questions about the OneNOAA Science Seminars contact Hernan Garcia (Hernan.Garcia@noaa.gov)

[Thermal Habitat Dynamics and Habitat Coverage Bias in Surveys Conducted During Seasonal Transition Periods. A Case Study and Possible Post Hoc with Butterfish](#)

January 23, 2012, 12:00-13:00 Eastern Time Zone; NOAA [NEFSC Stephen H. Clark Conference Room](#), Woods Hole, MA
[Powering the World, U.S., and Individual States for All Purposes with Wind, Water, and Sun](#)

January 23, 2013, 15:30 - 16:30 Mountain Time; NOAA ESRL Room 2A305, David Skaggs Research Center (Boulder, CO)
[Connecting Changing Ocean Circulation to Changing Climate](#)

January 23, 2013, 15:00 - 16:00 Eastern Time; Webinar access only

[A Genes-to-Ecosystems Approach to Ecology](#)

January 24, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA NWFSC Auditorium (Seattle, WA)

[Is Sea Level Rise Accelerating? Somewhere a Hockey Stick](#)

January 29, 2013; 12:00-13:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ, SSMC-4, Room 8150

[Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperatives: the Big Picture Approach to Science and Management](#)

January 29, 2013; 10:00-11:00 Alaska Time; Webinar access only

[Oyster Diets and Ecosystem Connectivity in Puget Sound](#)

January 31, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA NWFSC Auditorium (Seattle, WA)

Free Bird Webinar and Receive a Free Bird Feeder

Feeding birds can spark kids' curiosity, interest in the outdoors, and engagement with science! Take one of Cornell's Lab of Ornithology's scheduled webinars, and you'll find out how you and the youth you work with can make your own feeders and create a bird garden, decide where and when to hang your feeders in order to attract a variety of birds, and learn to identify those birds and participate in Cornell Lab citizen science projects. For the times of the webinars on **January 17, February 4 or February 13**, please visit: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/webinars>. The "Feeding our Feathered Friends" webinar complements the release of their new "Feathered Friends" resource, available for free download at: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/pennington>. Teachers who attend will receive a free window feeder, activity, student handouts, and coupons that will help you fill your feeder with Pennington birdseed.

CONFERENCES

Teacher EXPO at the Aquatic Sciences Meeting

The Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) invites you to a Teacher EXPO on Thursday, **February 21, 2013** at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Mini lectures, teacher mentors, poster hall, resource round, table, student art competition! The attached file contains the schedule of events, how to register (free for the EXPO), info on RV Pelican tour and school group visits (registration required), and student art contest information.

Save the Date for the Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Conference

To expand the conversation on environmentalism and working for environmental justice, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program will be hosting a Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Conference. The conference will be held in Biloxi, MS, **March 1-2, 2013**, at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. The theme of the conference is: Environmental Justice: Systems, Symptoms, and Solutions. Its purpose is to provide a forum for representatives from varying sectors to engage in dialogue and action regarding injustices plaguing vulnerable and underserved communities. *Please see the attached Save the Date for registration and hotel information.*

2013 NSTA National Conference in San Antonio

Plan your new year to include professional development to enhance your content knowledge, teaching skills, performance strategies, and to add zip to your instruction. Consider attending [NSTA's National Conference on Science Education, April 11-14, in San Antonio, TX](#). Workshops, seminars, symposia, field trips and the Exhibit Hall are all in the mix. Unique to their national conferences are Professional Development Institutes (PDI) with in depth, day long study opportunities on topics critical to educators. The fee-based institutes (8) scheduled for Wednesday, April 10 are designed with follow-on sessions that continue throughout the conference. Take advantage of [early bird registration](#), February 22, to save the most. Visit www.nsta.org/conferences/2013San for details and a full schedule of events.

EVENTS

Find Your School's Green Week!

Green Education Foundation will be kicking off its Green Week from February 4-8. Participants can choose any week or day between **February 4 and April 30** to be their Green Week. During their designated Green Week, teachers and youth group leaders are encouraged to spend time talking about sustainability issues, conducting one of Green Education Foundation's free lessons, or undertaking a sustainability project. Sign up at by February 1 to be entered to win eco-friendly prizes and for information on six sustainability themed programs, each with their own 5-day lesson sets, activities, tips, and recommended reading to make Green Week as simple as possible. [>>>](#)

National Environmental Education Week Greening STEM: Taking Technology Outdoors

The theme for the National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) 2013 is Greening STEM: Taking Technology Outdoors. Register to take advantage of this year's offerings and to learn more about the theme at <http://www.eeweek.org/>. See our suggested Top 10 Apps for Taking Tech Outside, https://sphotos-a.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-ash4/484962_10151243427097976_1457754025_n.png

Also make sure to view and share NEEF's video, *Using Technology to Connect Students & the Environment*, which illustrates how students at one Maine school are using a variety of technologies to help document ecological conditions near their school.

BioBlitz

You are invited! Join National Geographic and the National Park Service for the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park Preserve BioBlitz and Biodiversity Festival on **May 17-18**. The two-day celebration of biodiversity centers on a 24-hour discovery of species. Teams of scientists, students, and the general public will explore the park's Barataria Preserve swamps, marshes, and forests to find as many species as possible. All events are free and open to the public. To learn more and see how you can participate, visit <http://www.nps.gov/jela/bioblitz-2013-at-jean-lafitte.htm>.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Poster Presentation Submission

Anyone involved in the field of Environmental Justice, including community leaders, students, researchers, business/industry professionals, government agency employees, healthcare professionals, K-12 educators, and other interested parties are strongly encouraged to submit posters for presentation. Organized, well-delivered presentations covering a variety of EJ Gulf topics of practical value to attendees' are desired. Reviewers look for clear descriptions of how these projects are helping people of the Gulf, especially EJ communities. Projects can range from restoration projects in at-risk communities to student led projects that are raising awareness about coastal issues affecting EJ communities. The poster submission entry form may be found at: <http://epa.gov/gmpo/> or see the attachment PDF. *Deadline for poster summary submission is February 8.*

World of 7 Billion Video Contest for High School Students

Population Connection is hosting a video PSA contest for high school students. Students can win up to \$1,000, and participating teachers can receive free curriculum resources. The 30 to 45 second video PSA should illustrate the connection between world population at seven billion and one of the following: food security, the global status of women/girls, or wildlife habitat. **Deadline is February 21.** Full contest details are available at: <http://www.Worldof7Billion.org>

Spruce Up Your School Sweepstakes

Enter the Discovery Education TurfMutt Discovery Education Spruce Up Your School Sweepstakes <http://turfmutt.com/sweepstakes.cfm> for a chance to win a \$5,000 grant to help make your school's play area more eco-friendly and green by adding trees, shrubbery and more. Entries must be submitted by K-5 teachers. **Deadline is March 21.** Check out other free resources for educators and families: <http://turfmutt.com/educators.cfm>

Let's Make Ships Greener International Art Contest

Kids in grades K-12 are invited to participate in the Let's Make Ships Greener international art contest sponsored by The JASON Project, the North American Marine Environmental Protection Association, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Participants create an original poster with an idea to answer the question, How would you make shipping cleaner and/or more energy efficient? **The deadline for submission is March 22.**

<http://www.jason.org/contest/lets-make-ships-greener-international-art-contest>

GRANTS

Environmental Education Grant Opportunity: Improving Equity in Magnet Schools with STEM Priority

The **Magnet Schools Assistance program** provides grants to eligible local educational agencies for magnet schools. Projects must support the development and implementation of magnet schools that assist in the achievement of systemic reforms and provide all students with the opportunity to meet challenging academic content; student academic achievement standards; the development and design of innovative education methods and practices that promote diversity in public education programs; professional development; and the implementation of courses of instruction in magnet schools that strengthen students' knowledge of academic subjects and their grasp of tangible and marketable vocational skills. There will be a **pre-application webinar on January 17th**, the **notice of intent to apply is should be submitted by February 1**, and **applications are due by March 1**. >>>

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education offers grants to schools and parent/teacher groups. School projects should encourage parent involvement and build stronger community ties. The next deadline for application is **February 15, 2013**. <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>

AWARD NOMINATIONS

EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Seeks Gulf Guardian Award Nominations for 2013

The deadline for the 2013 Gulf Guardian Awards is: **March 8th, 2013!** The EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program partnership developed the Gulf Guardian awards as a way to recognize and honor the businesses, community groups, individuals, and organizations that are taking extraordinary steps to keep the Gulf healthy, beautiful and productive. For 2013, the Gulf of Mexico Program will be awarding 1st-3rd place awards for the following seven (7) categories: Business & Industry, Environmental Justice/Cultural Diversity, Civic/Non-Profit Organizations, Partnerships, Youth Environmental Education, Individual, Bi-National Partnerships. To complete a nomination application, visit: www.epa.gov/gmpo. Email your nomination to gulf.guardian@epa.gov by March 8, 2013. If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact The Gulf of Mexico Program Office at (228) 688-3726. Mexico.



INTERNSHIPS

Know An Outstanding Environmental Educator?

The applications for 2013-2014 ED [Washington](#) and [Classroom](#) Teaching Ambassador Fellowships are now available and will close on **January 29, 2013**. Teaching Ambassador Fellows are outstanding teachers, with a record of leadership, strong communication skills, and insight into educational policy based in classroom expertise. All Teaching Ambassador Fellows spend a year learning about key federal programs and policies; sharing their expertise with federal staff; and providing outreach and communication about federal initiatives to other educators on behalf of the Department. More info [>>>](#)

RESOURCES

Ocean Today Website Posts Six New Videos

[Animals of the Ice](#)— Did you know that Antarctic krill travel in swarms so dense that they can be seen from space? Learn more cool facts about Arctic and Antarctic animals in this short 5-part series.

[Know Your Ocean](#)— One ocean or five? Common misconceptions about the ocean are set straight.

Ocean Today videos are available for download -- for free -- on the Ocean Today website. There are two different sizes depending on your needs.

*Find out about wetland outreach activities including symposiums, conferences, meetings, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, and related support material at the **Louisiana Unified Coastal Community Calendar** at <http://lacoast.gov/calendar/>*

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